

worked. Mike is the author of five patents, again, bringing leadership, value and innovation to the business community.

Mike has also contributed to his community through his service on many boards in Medina County, in so doing, he has touched the lives of many in his community. I'm sure the Greater Medina Chamber of Commerce, Hospice of Medina County, Southwest General Health Center and Blue Coats of Medina County will all agree with me that Mike Baach has made his home, Medina County, a better place to live for all its citizens through his tireless devotion and service. It is the considered opinion of many that Mike's wisdom, compassion and integrity define his character. Medina County, and indeed, the State of Ohio and the Nation itself are better places because of Mike Baach's presence and contributions.

The 115th Congress acknowledges the many achievements of Mike Baach. I thank him for his friendship and wish him the best of luck in his new endeavors.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SIMPLEX MANUFACTURING COMPANY

**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 12, 2018*

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of Simplex Manufacturing Company in my district in Auburn, New York.

Founded in 1918 by William J. Merritt, Simplex Manufacturing Company began as a leather goods manufacturer. Over the years, however, Simplex has evolved with market trends, and now provides a variety of essential, modern products that are often custom-made for a variety of machines and devices. Today, the parts crafted by Simplex are used in all manner of devices from motors and hand tools, to security systems which keep families and businesses safe from harm.

Throughout the years, Simplex has become a staple of the Central New York business community. In this day and age, while many companies have chosen quantity over quality, Simplex has remained dedicated to producing an excellent product. I am proud to congratulate the owners and employees of Simplex 100 successful years in business.

#### HONORING JOSEPH DIANTONIO OF MILFORD, MA

**HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 12, 2018*

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph DiAntonio, a lifelong resident of the Fourth District of Massachusetts, who passed away in April after a life marked by courage, kindness, and an unwavering commitment to public service.

Born in Milford, Massachusetts in 1927, Mr. DiAntonio, or "Joe D" to those who knew him,

graduated from Milford High School in 1945 before enlisting in the Navy as our nation was gripped in the Second World War. After returning from service, Mr. DiAntonio began his career with the Rosenfeld Concrete Company where he would eventually retire as plant and credit manager.

In Milford, Mr. DiAntonio will be missed at Town Council meetings where he served fifty-two years as a member, taking on leadership roles as Chairman of the Town Finance and Library Building Committees as well as Trustee of the Milford Geriatric Authority.

A proud son of Italian immigrants, Mr. DiAntonio was a member of the Italian-American War Veterans Post of Milford, where he worked to honor the service and sacrifices of past and present veterans of Italian heritage, and the impact that first generation Americans continue to have on our country.

On May 4th, Joseph DiAntonio was laid to rest with military honors surrounded by his six children, twelve grandchildren, and fourteen great-grandchildren. The Fourth District was proud to have a neighbor like "Joe D", and from the Halls of Congress, I offer our condolences to those who knew him.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HALLS HILL STATION NO. 8

**HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 12, 2018*

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Arlington, Virginia's Halls Hill Station No. 8, which is being honored at the African American Fire Fighters Historical Society's 8th Annual Salute Dinner. As the Civil War ended, freed slaves in Arlington set out to build a community and independent life. Many settled in the Halls Hill neighborhood, making it North Arlington's first African American community. There they built a supportive community with sprawling businesses, civic organizations, and support services. One of the most respected and treasured of those service organizations is Fire Station No. 8.

In 1918, twenty years after Arlington County's first firefighting company was established, a group of African American men formed a volunteer fire department to bring fire protection to the African American community of Halls Hill. At the time, the Halls Hill African American community, which began as a home for freed slaves after the Civil War, was kept separate from adjacent white communities, in part, by an 8-foot wooden fence. Initially, the Halls Hill firefighters had only a 60-gallon chemical tank—pulled by six men over unpaved and muddy roads—that was housed on the grounds of the John Langston Elementary School. In 1925, the seven-year-old Halls Hill Station No. 8 held its first elections and, through door-to-door canvassing campaigns, raised enough money to procure the Station's first motor-driven engine. In 1927, the Halls Hill Volunteer Fire Department was officially incorporated and moved to a new location on Lee Highway, which featured a telephone by which fire calls were routed through the chief operator of the local telephone company.

With Arlington County starting to fund equipment and utilities for volunteer fire companies, the 1930s proved much more rewarding for the previously neglected Halls Hill Volunteer Fire Department. With County support, the Halls Hill Volunteer Fire Department obtained its first pumper as well as a 1929 Diamond-T truck. The Hicks family, who owned several community businesses, also offered property for a new firehouse, which quickly became a de facto community center for local news and conversation. The new firehouse featured such attractions as a pay phone and soda machine as well as a blaring siren to summon volunteers to the firehouse. Around this time, the Arlington County Fireman's Association was founded as a network for Arlington fire companies, but did not include Halls Hill Volunteer Fire Department.

In 1940, Arlington County began funding professional fire staff to work within the volunteer companies. Eleven years later, Halls Hill became the last firefighting company in the county to be assigned paid professionals. The original professional firefighters assigned in 1951 to Station No. 8, in order of hire, were Alfred Clark, Julian Syphax, George McNeal, and Archie Syphax. Later, Hartman Reed, James K. Jones, Carroll Deskins, Henry Vincent, Carl Cooper, Ervin Richardson, Jimmy Terry, Wilton Hendricks, Bill Warrington and Bobby Hill were also hired. As a segregated station, Halls Hill Station No. 8 sought to prioritize serving the immediate community. However, firefighters assigned to the Station were routinely dispatched on calls outside their first due area. On these dispatches, firefighters were often berated, even by the residents the firefighters were attempting to help.

Career advancement opportunities for African American firefighters at that time were limited to Fire Station No. 8. Nonetheless, in 1957, Alfred Clark became the first African American fire captain in the County and continued to serve at Station No. 8. His daughter Kitty recalls that when the station later became integrated in the 1960s, some white firefighters said they "would not serve under a 'Ni. . .'" and even wrote it on the chalkboard. The battalion chief, upon arriving, ordered it removed and told the white firefighters they will serve and respect Captain Clark."

As the main social and community center for families of the Halls Hill African American community, Station No. 8 was on the forefront of the Civil Rights Movement. There, community members advocated for a variety of causes, including the desegregation of public schools and integration of lunch counters.

In 1962, construction began on a new Station No. 8 facility, which served a growing Arlington County population. However, in 1999, a study for the County Manager identified Station No. 8 for possible "relocation, consolidation, replacement or closure." In 2016, after community pushback, the Arlington County Board voted to build a new Fire Station No. 8 at the Lee Highway site where the Station remains today. 100 years after its formation, Station No. 8 has a fully paid staff that serves the very community that preserved Station No. 8 as a Halls Hill institution. Arlington County has committed to building a new Station No. 8 that will memorialize the countless people who have sustained this community asset.

WILTON LANNING: CUSTODIAN OF  
A TEXAS ICON

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 12, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this year, the state of Texas mourned the loss of Wilton Lanning, the founder of the Dr Pepper Museum and W.W. Clements Free Enterprise Institute in Waco.

Texas is a state rich with history, and certain people, places, and objects have become cultural icons. The Alamo, Sam Houston, Friday night lights, and country music, to name a few are all woven into the fabric of Texas.

The popular soda Dr Pepper is one such Texas icon. While the refreshing, sweet beverage has become a hit with consumers around the world, Texans retain a special connection to the brand. Nowhere is this bond stronger than in Waco, where the soda was originally created in a corner drug store in the late 1800's.

Although the company had moved on from its original location as its business continued to grow, Lanning sought to bring the iconic brand back to Waco. He set his sights on a disused building, an abandoned bottling facility, in downtown Waco to house a nonprofit museum dedicated to the heritage and history of the beloved soda.

The odds were stacked against him. The city of Waco had still not completely recovered from the brutal tornado that tore through the city in 1953, and the neighborhood Lanning had his eyes on was run down and bereft of economic or social vitality. The building itself had been declared "blighted" by the city of Waco, hardly the ideal spot for a shrine of a world-famous soda product.

There were more than a few naysayers, but Lanning did not let the doubters deter him. Instead, he took initiative to garner support from the Dr Pepper Company and convinced them to sell the building in 1988 with the purpose of converting it into a museum. The renovation began in 1990, and Lanning oversaw the conversion of the old, decrepit building into an exhibition dedicated to Dr Pepper.

The museum opened to the public on May 11, 1991, 38 years to the day after the devastating tornado swept through Waco. 10,000 visitors passed through on the first day, and they continued to come. The museum itself continued to expand from humble origins, and in 1997, the entire building was open to the public. In the same year, Lanning also helped launch the W.W. Clements Free Enterprise Institute, an organization housed in the museum dedicated to educating visitors on the American economic system as personified in the soft drinks industry. Today, the museum has become a pilgrimage site for Dr Pepper aficionados from Texas and beyond, an essential institution to promoting the history and culture of our great state.

None of this would have been possible without Mr. Lanning's leadership and vision. He will be missed not only for his role in the Dr Pepper Museum but also as an active, industrious citizen. He served his community with unrivaled passion and zeal as an Eagle Scout, a 50-year veteran of the Rotary Club, and an expert on Waco's history. Above all, however, the people of Waco and Texas will miss him

as a friend and one whose unceasing optimism inspired those around him to be positive.

Mr. Speaker, Wilton Lanning left an admirable example to imitate, and he embodied the best values of our citizenry. So next time you crack open a cold Dr Pepper, raise your glass to Mr. Lanning, a custodian of a Texas icon. And that is just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE HISTORIC CAREER OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER MITCH MCCONNELL

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 12, 2018*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL on becoming the longest serving Republican Senate Leader with a historic tenure of 11 years, 5 months and 10 days. My dear friend and colleague from Kentucky is a masterful political strategist with a once in a generation political mind, and it gives me great pride and happiness to recognize him on the achievement of this remarkable milestone.

For decades, Leader MCCONNELL has dedicated himself to the public service of the Nation, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and the Republican Party. Guided by a deep-seeded conservatism, an unparalleled respect for our great Nation's Constitution and the institutions of our democracy, and the ever-relevant wisdom of our Founding Fathers, Leader MCCONNELL has demonstrated unmatched political acumen and dynamic leadership. His instincts are second to none: he knows when to fight and he knows when to compromise. The Leader is calculated and tactical, with keen foresight, and he works harder than anyone in the U.S. Capitol building. As a result, he simply gets things done.

While he has been at the helm of our great Party during times of celebration, prosperity and jubilation, the Senator has also never hesitated to step forward and lead the Party in times of turbulence and controversy. Through it all, he has seemed unflappable. Time after time, Senator MCCONNELL has taken on a leadership role and worked tirelessly for the Republican Party by serving as our Party's Senate Whip, Minority Leader, and Majority Leader. While holding each of these positions, Senator MCCONNELL has worked to unify and guide the Party in the right direction. In doing so, he has rightfully attained the confidence, respect, and admiration of his colleagues and garnered many great accomplishments in the process.

As Senate Minority Leader, Senator MCCONNELL held closely to his conservative values in spite of enormous pressure from an opposing Democratic Party in Congress and Presidential Administration. As the momentum in Congress began to turn, Senator MCCONNELL once again stepped up to the challenge when his colleagues elected him as Senate Majority Leader. While holding this leadership position, he has achieved many successes, including the confirmation of Justice Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court and passage of the Senate's Tax Reform bill—both of which required a champion who was not afraid to be a target of criticism. Both victories serve as a

testament to Leader MCCONNELL's vision as one of the finest master strategists in the history of the U.S. Senate.

Throughout Leader MCCONNELL's tenure, he has also brought great esteem to our state and always remembered to prioritize our old Kentucky home. He has also continued to proudly represent our region since he was first elected as Senator in 1984. It has been a joy of mine to work alongside him on various bills and projects that have positively impacted Kentuckians. Together, we have worked to create jobs, support veterans, protect the coal industry, and sustain agriculture within Kentucky. I look forward to continuing our collaboration to further the prosperity of the people and communities of our beloved Southern and Eastern Kentucky.

Once again, I would like to congratulate Leader MCCONNELL for this major milestone in his career of public service. It has been a pleasure to serve alongside him in Congress and to observe these historic moments of success. I wish him many more years of continued good health, happiness, and success.

FEDERAL INSURANCE OFFICE

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 12, 2018*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I will vote for the Federal Insurance Office Reform Act of 2017 because it prevents covered agreements from imposing new prudential requirements without a separate act of Congress. I am worried about the availability and accessibility of nationwide data about insurance and want assurances that this will be addressed before the bill reaches the House floor.

CONGRATULATING THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS INDEPENDENCE

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 12, 2018*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Republic of the Philippines on the 120th anniversary of its independence from Spain. On May 1, 1898, The Battle of Manila Bay signaled the United States' entry into the war with the Spanish that the Philippines had been fighting since 1896. On June 12, 1898, encouraged by support from our country, the Philippine people declared their independence after over 200 years of Spanish colonial rule. By August, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Cuba, and my home, Guam, officially became a part of the United States.

Since earning their independence, the Philippine people have suffered through years of dictatorship, martial law, and Japanese occupation. The people of Guam are particularly sympathetic to these atrocities, having ourselves been occupied by enemy forces during World War II.

Since its independence, the Republic of the Philippines and the United States have shared a strong friendship and alliance that enhances